

SITUATION REPORT NO. 2
INCIDENT NO. 96-62
DATE: 05-17-96 TIME: 5:00 p.m.

TO: Michael J. Armstrong, Regional Director
FEMA Region VIII
Denver, Colorado

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: High winds and heavy rain late May 16 and early May 17.
2. DEATH AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGE: High winds gusting up to 80 mph on May 16-17 damaged homes, businesses and vehicles in Adams, Barnes, Burleigh, Emmons, Grant, Kidder, Morton and Sioux Counties. Initial reports from the National Weather Service indicate that counties affected by heavy rains include Pembina, Walsh, Grand Forks, Ramsey, Nelson, Towner, Pierce, Benson, Dickey, McIntosh, Kidder, Emmons, Burleigh, Morton, Grant and Adams. The largest amount of rain, 4.14 inches, was reported in the city of Adams in Walsh County. At sunrise on May 17, officials began to assess damages.

Adams County-

Adams County officials reported rainfall up to 3 inches. A vehicle was blown off the road. Near Haynes, farm buildings were damaged by gusting winds and flash flooding.

Barnes County-

Barnes County officials reported a possible tornado severely damaged a Valley City area farmhouse, removing part of its roof, a garage door and a chimney. In addition, four farm buildings and two silos were reported destroyed.

A semi tractor-trailer was blown off Interstate 94 near Tower City.

Burleigh County-

A mobile home in south Bismarck was destroyed by high winds.

Officials report significant wind damage throughout the city, including downed trees, roof damage to homes and businesses, and road sign damages.

Montana-Dakota Utilities (MDU) reported about 3,000 homes were without power because of downed power lines.

The Bismarck Civic Center lost a large loading door, causing a wall to move two to three feet.

The Bismarck Municipal Airport lost part of a roof on a walkway between its two terminals. A small airplane was blown over.

Grant County-

Buildings damaged by high winds and a possible tornado included two mobile homes that were destroyed, a metal building at the Grant County Fairgrounds and a garage. Many uprooted trees may cause further damage and safety concerns if not attended to immediately.

A 400-gallon gasoline tank in Carson spilled its contents after it tipped over during the storm.

In Leith, high winds damaged a large Quonset where an airplane was stored.

A grain elevator in Heil was destroyed, and a semi tractor-trailer was tipped over on its side.

Throughout the county, 40 electrical poles were broken by high winds. In addition, debris problems were reported in Flasher, where homeowners also reported home and vehicle window damage. Home damages also were reported in Raleigh.

Kidder County-

In Steele, three homes were damaged by uprooted trees. A mobile home was damaged by the hitch of another mobile home when that home was tipped over. Damage extended in a line southeast to northeast.

An uprooted tree near the local school blocked traffic.

A garage collapsed when high winds forced it off its foundation and against a nearby home.

Morton County-

Multiple businesses and homes in south Mandan had roofs damaged or completely removed. Recreational vehicles were tipped over, road signs were downed, and 400 Mandan homes were without power for more than two hours.

Nelson County-

Nelson County officials reported up to 4 inches of rain has contributed to water-filled ditches and softened roadbeds. Eight residents reported up to 3 inches of water in their basements.

Sioux County-

An initial damage assessment conducted by the American Red Cross indicated that three mobile homes were destroyed and the roofs of a school and five homes were damaged.

Victims were housed at Prairie Knights Casino.

Stutsman County-

A damaged transformer caused power outages for the Stutsman County Law Enforcement Center and the city of Jamestown.

High winds caused a power pole north of Cleveland to snap, blew sheet metal off the Windsor Grain Elevator, and knocked down a private radio tower south of Windsor.

Walsh County-

Walsh County officials reported rainfall ranging from 2.5 to more than 5 inches, causing rapid runoff, which damaged roads, bridges and culverts.

Because of heavy rain, the National Weather Service has forecast a crest of 14 to 15 feet on the Park River at Grafton for Monday, May 20. The spring flood crest was 14.5 feet.

4. RESOURCES COMMITTED:

LOCAL: (In addition to previous reports) the Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Co-Op, Inc., Western Area Power Administration, Burlington Santa Fe Railroad, city mayors, county commissioners, public works, law enforcement, emergency medical services, fire department and emergency managers and communications dispatch centers in affected areas.

STATE: (In addition to previous reports) N.D. National Guard is assisting Grant County officials and volunteers in debris removal efforts.

FEDERAL: The National Weather Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: The American Red Cross has conducted an initial damage assessment of individual impacts. The National Weather Service's Skywarn volunteers provided storm updates. Volunteers in affected communities were helping to clear debris.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The N.D. National Guard is providing seven personnel, one loader and five trucks for two days to assist in removing storm debris from city streets and other public properties in Grant County.

The N.D. Department of Health is providing technical assistance to Grant County officials with the storm-related gasoline spill.

The Grant County Commissioners and the Carson City Commissioners issued disaster declarations on May 17.

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Co-Op, Inc., crews were restoring power and repairing damaged poles.

Western Area Power Administration removed debris wrapped around a power line transmission tower in Barnes County.

A Barnes County rural electric cooperative is repairing power lines.

The Bureau of Reclamation discontinued all releases of the Jamestown Dam temporarily to allow for local runoff.

Walsh County officials are notifying city officials and private citizens living along the Forest and Park Rivers of renewed flooding potential. Sand and sanbags are being stockpiled.

8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: None at this time.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: A tornado watch has been issued late Friday afternoon for eastern North Dakota.

Information in this report concerning rainfall and storm activity also has a major impact on the situations that have been described in situation reports for incidents 96-01 and 96-37.

Signed _____
Douglas C. Friez
State Director